

Why Every UK Citizen Should Visit the US

The UK and the US speak the same language and generally have similar cultures, but these are drastically different areas of the developed world. Eventually, every UK citizen should make it a point to visit the US. But why is this the case? And what process should these travelers follow to ensure a smooth, safe experience?



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It's Easy

One of the greatest advantages of traveling to the United States as a UK citizen is that it's relatively easy, especially compared to other international travel destinations. If you've always wanted to travel to another country but felt intimidated, this is a huge plus.

- **Travel requirements.** As a British citizen, it's relatively

easy to get [travel authorization to the United States](#). The US and the UK are on friendly terms with one another, and each is part of the international Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Essentially, this means you're free to travel to other countries that mutually participate in the program, as long as you secure an electronic authorization via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). Filling out an application for electronic travel authorization is quick and easy, and it provides you with many of the same abilities that a visa does, with some changes and exceptions.

- **Travel costs.** Traveling internationally is inexpensive, especially compared to the cost of traveling internationally in years past. If you're willing to travel during the offseason and remain patient as you hunt for a good deal, you might be able to secure a ridiculously cheap flight and equally cheap bookings. If you're trying to save even more money, you might benefit from staying at a hostel or sharing a space with other people.

- **A familiar language.** Unlike traveling to some other countries, you won't have to learn a totally new language. English is the most common language spoken in the United States, by far, and while there are some vernacular differences between British English and American English, you shouldn't have much trouble communicating with the people around you. You'll be able to read, speak, and listen to other people with relative ease.

- **Cultural similarities.** Similarly, there are many cultural similarities between the United States and Britain. Traveling to some countries requires you to learn new gestures, unlearn ingrained habits, and practice sensitivity to an unfamiliar set of customs. But in the United States, you should feel mostly at home.

It's Huge

Coming from a relatively small island, you might underestimate the true size of the US. This country is one of the biggest in the world, and as you travel throughout it, you'll encounter many different climates and types of scenery. Whether you're looking for dense urban areas, hot and dry mountainous regions, humid forests, or open plains, there's a place in the US that can give you what you want. It's the perfect place to take a road trip, especially if you want to make the most of the scenery.

It's Home to the National Park Service

[The National Park Service](#) of the US manages 63 national parks, which are each incredibly unique. Lush forests, challenging hiking trails, and tons of recreational activities await you. You can check out the Grand Canyon, venture through the desert, and enjoy a relaxing fishing expedition all in the same week. Some National Parks do charge a fee for admission, but these fees are usually quite reasonable considering the experience you get.

It's a Cultural Melting Pot

The US is sometimes described as a [melting pot of cultures and ethnicities](#). And for the most part, it's an apt description. Wherever you go, you'll likely meet many different types of people from many different backgrounds. It's a great way to expose yourself to different values and perspectives, even though all those values and perspectives will still be under the umbrella of the United States.

Big and Small Cities Each Have Something Unique to Show You

Should you prioritize visiting big cities? Or stay in smaller, cozier towns? The truth is, both types of places have amazing experiences to enjoy. In big cities, you'll find denser populations and a greater diversity of activities to try. But in small towns, you'll find more hospitality, unique charm, and hidden gems that are woefully underutilized.

You'll Come Back With More Appreciation for Home

Finally, at the end of your trip, you'll come back with more appreciation for your own home. Visiting the US is a fun adventure – but it's no replacement for the UK scenery you've come to love.

Traveling to the US should be a bucket list item for every Brit. These days, it's easier than ever to get travel authorization and plan your trip, so why wait? There are countless exciting experiences waiting for you.